

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9288

S E C R E T ABIDJAN 6587

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFEELE

EO 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PFOR

SUB: TALK WITH HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY

1. I SPENT ALMOST THREE HOURS WITH HOUPHOUET EVENING JULY 14, INCLUDING

DINNER AT HIS RESIDENCE. FIRST HOUR I WAS ALONE WITH HOUPHOUET AND AMB.

SMITH JOINED US FOR REMAINDER OF EVENING.

2. MAJOR PROBLEM IN MY CONVERSATION WAS GETTING A WORD IN EDGEWISE.

SINCE HOUPHOUET HAD SPENT ONLY AN HOUR WITH YOU IN PARIS AND SINCE

GOV. SCRANTON HAD TO CANCEL THE LUNCH HOUPHOUET HAD PLANNED

FOR HIM, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT

PRESIDENT WAS EAGERLY SEEKING OPPORTUNITY TO POUR OUT HIS

VIEWS ON AFRICA AND THE WORLD. THERE WAS NOTHING

PARTICULARLY NEW IN HIS PRESENTATION WHICH HAD BEEN FULLY

REPORTED MOST RECENTLY IN ABIDJAN 6221 AND 5606.

3. AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT HOUPHOUET GAVE HIS FULL AND UNQUALIFIED

BLESSING TO ANYTHING THE UNITED STATES CAN DO TO RESOLVE THE

SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE TOO EMPHASIZED NEED FOR

SOUTH AFRICA TO MOVE QUICKLY ON NAMIBIA WHICH HE SAYS

HE HAS REPEATEDLY URGED ON SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS.

4. HE WAS SOMEWHAT LESS FORCEFUL ON RHODESIA PROBABLY BECAUSE HE

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SEES THAT SITUATION IS MORE COMPLICATED. HOUPHOUET IS STRONG

SUPPORTER OF NKOMO. HE STRESSED THAT IN BOTH NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS MUST BE ACHIEVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OR INEVITABLE OUTSIDE INTERVENTION WILL JEOPARDIZE FUTURE OF AFRICA AND AUTOMATICALLY THAT OF WESTERN EUROPE WHICH IS INCREASINLY DEPENDENT ON AFRICAN RAW MATERIALS. FURTHERMORE, RAPID SOLUTION WILL ASSURE CONTINUED ROLE FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND WHITES GENERALLY IN BOTH TERRITORIES WHICH HE CONSIDERS INDISPENSABLE FOR THE FUTURE.

5. REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF HOUPHOUET REGARDSAPARTHEID AS ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL MATTER WHICH IVORY COAST WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE BUT NOT TO EXTENT OF SUPPORTING ARMED STRUGGLE. HE FAVORS DIALOGUE, FULL RIGHTS INITIALLY FOR COLOREDS AND ASIANS AND PROGRESIVE ADVANCEMENT OF BLACKS UNTIL THEY ACHIEVE ECONOMIC PARITY WITH WHITES.

6. HOUPHOUET OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME STRONG FEELINGS AS OTHERS ABOUT THE EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE HOMELANDS SUCH AS TRANSKEI. FOR HIM THE MAJOR ISSUE IS THAT THERE BE AN EQUITABLE DIVISION OF LAND AND RESOURCES AND THAT THE INDEPENDENT STATES ARE ABLE TO EXIST ECONOMICALLY. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PK WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLYINCLUDE A WHITE-MAJORITY AREA IN THE SOUTH--4 MILLION WHITES AND 2 TO 2.5 MILLION BLACKS. NEVERTHELESS HE BELIEVES THAT FEW, IF ANY, AFRICAN STATES WILL RECOGNIZE TRANSKEI.

7. SPECIFICALLY REGARDING OUR EFFORT HE WAS FULLY SUPPORTIVE, NOTING THAT U.S. IS IN BETTER POSITION THAN ANY OTHER STATE TO PUT TOGETHER A SUOLUTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, NOT ONLY BECAUSE ITS INTEREST IS ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL WITH AFRICA'S REAL INTERESTS. HE URGED US TO PROCEED AND OFFERED HIS ASSISTANCE IF NEEDED.

8. COMMENT: HOUPHOUET'S REACTION WAS PREDICTABLE BUT IN VIEW OF HIS PRESTIGE AND HIS LEADERSHIP IN FRANCPHONE AFRICA--ALONG WITH SENGHOR- I BELIVE CONSULTATION WAS NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE. IF HE ISCONVINCED THAT WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS BUT ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES RAISED BY OTHER AFRICAN STATES I AM CERTAIN HE WILL HELP. FURTHERMORE HE--ALONG WITH SENGHOR AND MOBUTU--MAY, AT LATER STAGE, BECOME USEFUL IN THIS
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PROCESS BECAUSE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH WITH SOUTH AFRICA PROVIDES A BLACK AFRICAN INSOLVENCE WITH PRETORIA. IN VIEW OF VORSTER'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAININGSOME KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH BLACK AFRICAN STATES, IVORY COAST, SENEGAL, ZAIRE AND POSSIBLY CENTRAL AFRICANREPUBLIC MAY HAVE SOME USEFUL LEVERAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA.
SMITH

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NNN

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